Four Versions of Martial

[1.117]
‘Can I download your poems from a pdf?’
‘You cannot. But there’s a shop in town
with Five Seasons books on the shelf.’
‘Reasonable price?’ ‘400 pages for £15.’
‘That’s a lot.’ ‘Half your last night’s dinner
and half again.’ ‘For what that’s worth.’
‘I won’t argue. You’re the judge. It’s a lot.’

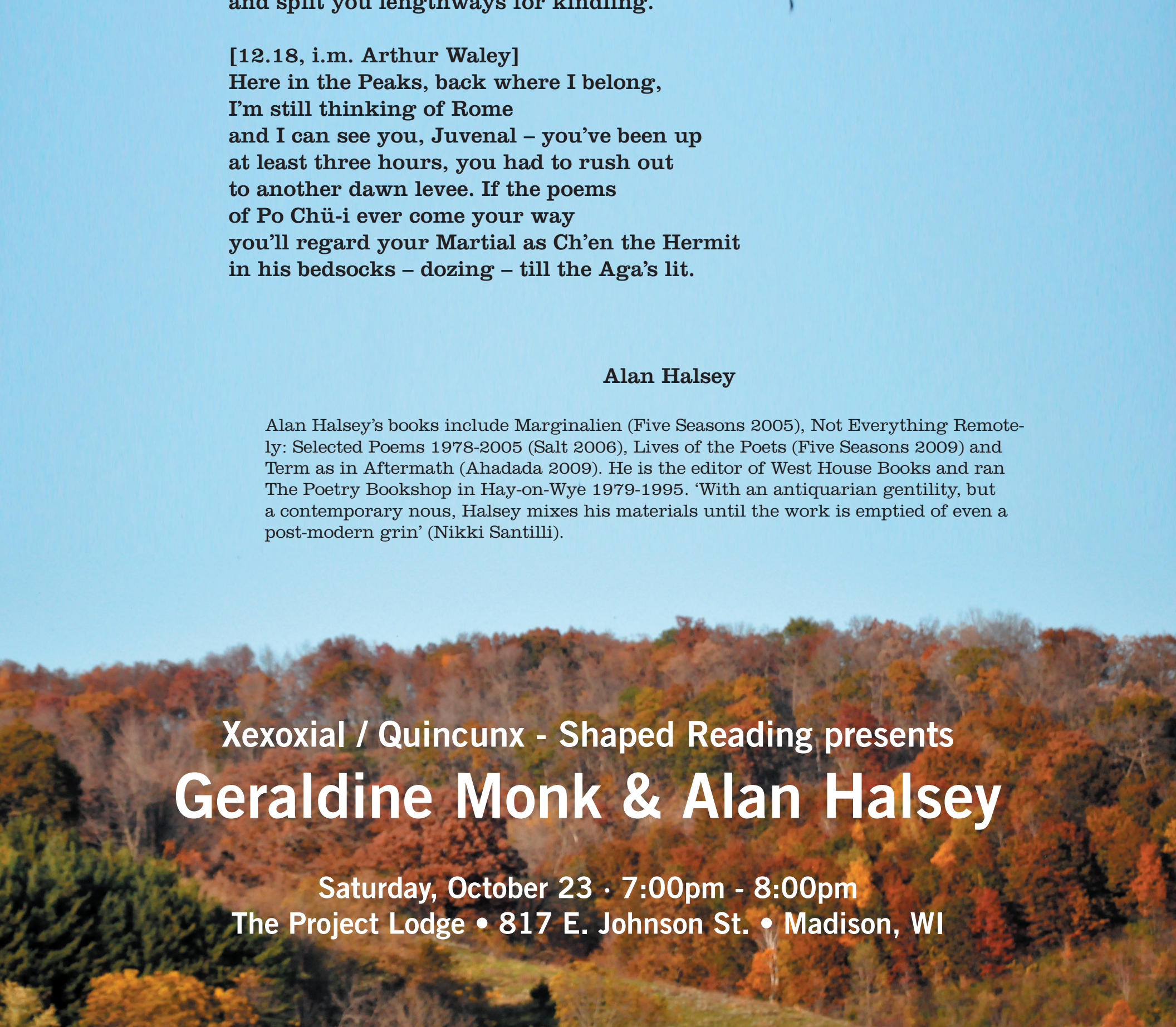
[6.52]
Earth be as gentle
with this five o’clock shadow
as he was with ours.
Here lies Pantagathus
youngest of barbers & the best.

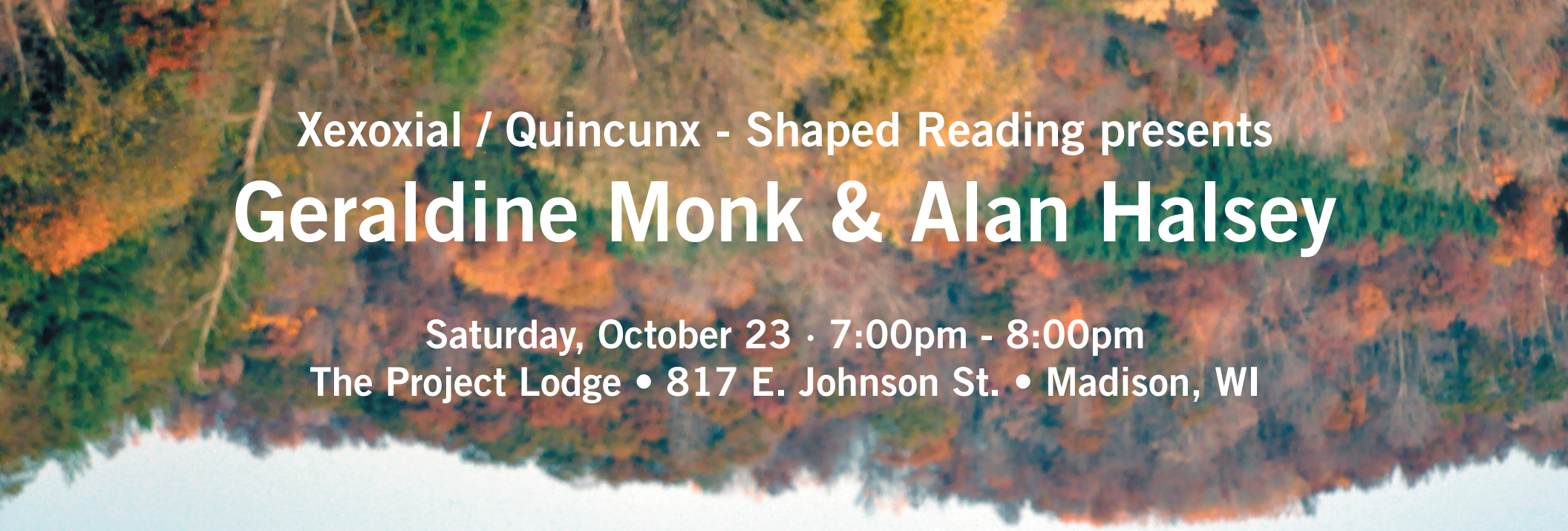
[8.40]
You’re not a garden ornament, Priapus.
This spinney of mine was your birthplace
and now it’s my winter fuel. Guard it
with your life. If a thief gets in
I can whittle a newborn Priapus
and split you lengthways for kindling.

[12.18, i.m. Arthur Waley]
Here in the Peaks, back where I belong,
I’m still thinking of Rome
and I can see you, Juvenal – you’ve been up
at least three hours, you had to rush out
to another dawn levee. If the poems
of Po Chü-i ever come your way
you’ll regard your Martial as Ch’en the Hermit
in his bedsocks – dozing – till the Aga’s lit.

Alan Halsey

Alan Halsey’s books include Marginalien (Five Seasons 2005), Not Everything Remotely: Selected Poems 1978-2005 (Salt 2006), Lives of the Poets (Five Seasons 2009) and Term as in Aftermath (Ahadada 2009). He is the editor of West House Books and ran The Poetry Bookshop in Hay-on-Wye 1979-1995. ‘With an antiquarian gentility, but a contemporary nous, Halsey mixes his materials until the work is emptied of even a post-modern grin’ (Nikki Santilli).


Xexoxial / Quincunx - Shaped Reading presents
Geraldine Monk & Alan Halsey
Saturday, October 23 · 7:00pm - 8:00pm
The Project Lodge • 817 E. Johnson St. • Madison, WI



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Skin

the *you* that keeps *you*

IN

ape plum antelope snake

joy-bundle
heart-cockle

meniscus

dew pod

(body-bag for life)

core-carrier
dermis-detritus
soul-barrier
every colour transit van

parsnip peach potato zebra

pillow-slip
milk-carton

osmosis

sweet sweat pips

(body-bag for after)

feather-dreads fruity-nooks paper-cuts

till death do us

obscene

OUT

Geraldine Monk

Geraldine Monk is an English poet whose first publications appeared in the 1970s with Writers Forum and Pirate Press. Her major volumes of poetry include Interregnum (Creation Books 1995), Noctivagations 2001 and Escafeld Hangings 2005 (both published by West House Books). Her Selected Poems was published in 2003 (Salt Publishing). A collection of essays on her poetry, The Salt Companion to Geraldine Monk edited by Scott Thurston, appeared in 2007.